
**APPENDIX J – WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY AND
SUITABILITY STUDY**

I. ELIGIBILITY STUDY

SECTION I

ELIGIBILITY STUDY

I.1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) of October 2, 1968, (P.L. 90-542, as amended) directs federal agencies to consider potential Wild and Scenic River additions through their respective land use planning processes. In accordance with provisions of the Act, evaluation of potential rivers involves a sequential process to determine eligibility, tentative classification and then a recommendation on suitability for inclusion to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). BLM Manual 8351 provides process guidance. Eligibility and tentative classification determinations comprise an inventory. Subsequent suitability determinations are resource management plan outputs expressed as recommendations. Ultimate designation for inclusion to the NWSRS is a Congressional decision.

All named streams within the planning area with BLM surface ownership were screened against Wild and Scenic River eligibility criteria (Appendix A). This involved portions or all of 133 streams (Appendix B). Nearly all these streams were found to meet the free flowing eligibility criteria. Five free flowing stream segments were found to possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” resource value and to be eligible for inclusion to the National Wild and Scenic River System. These include a segment of the Kootenai River, a segment of the Little North Fork Clearwater River and the entire length of Lost Lake Creek, Little Lost Lake Creek, and Lund Creek.

I.2 PROCESS OVERVIEW

BLM’s geographic information system was used to identify and map rivers and streams with BLM surface ownership. The river and streams layer derived from the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) National Hydrographic Data Set and the BLM surface ownership layer were combined to produce a list of 133 potentially free flowing streams to consider (Appendix B). Within their individual area(s) of expertise, staff specialists assessed these streams against WSRA eligibility criteria using available inventory information and their personal knowledge of the area (Appendix A). Process details include:

- No new resource inventories were conducted. Existing information was used.
- Stream segments previously studied for suitability were not reevaluated for eligibility. This involved one stream with BLM ownership, the St. Joe River.
- Only named streams were included on the potential rivers list. Un-named tributaries to these named streams were considered along with the named stream if BLM lands were involved.
- In accordance with BLM policy, only stream segments with predominant federal ownership were evaluated.
- In instances where BLM and National Forest lands are intermingled the total federal segment was considered.

I.2.1 Eligibility Criteria

Free Flowing

Free-flowing is defined in the WSRA as “existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” The existence of small dams or other structures does not automatically disqualify a stream from consideration for inclusion to the NWSRS. There is no minimum flow requirement and a stream need not be boatable or floatable in order to be eligible. Congress did not require rivers to be “naturally flowing”. Impoundments upstream or downstream of a river segment which regulates the flow regime through it does not disqualify it from consideration.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The WSRA requires a river segment to contain one or more “outstandingly remarkable” value to be eligible for inclusion to the NWSRS. Seven specific resource values are listed and a general value category identified as “other similar values” is also included. The Act does not define the terms “outstandingly remarkable” or prescribe standards for evaluating individual resource values. Agency guidance for doing so is provided in BLM Manual 8351 and is summarized below.

- **Scenic:** The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. Additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and length of time negative intrusions are viewed can also be considered when analyzing scenic values. Diverse scenery and visual attractions exist over a majority of the public lands, are not common to other streams and are of a quality to attract visitors from outside the area.
- **Recreational:** Recreational opportunities are unique enough to attract visitors from outside the area. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the water related resources for recreational purposes. Recreation opportunities could include but are not limited to sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping. Photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Also, interpretive opportunities may be exceptional.

- **Geologic:** The stream corridor provides an example(s) of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the region. The feature(s) may be in an unusual stage of development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (e.g., erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structure).
- **Fisheries:** Fishery values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of both.

Populations: The stream is a top producer of resident and/or indigenous fish species either nationally or regionally. Of significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks or populations of listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Diversity of species is also an important consideration.

Habitat: The stream segment contributes to exceptionally high habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

- **Wildlife:** Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of both.

Populations: Stream corridor lands support populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species important in the area or nationally. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or populations of listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Habitat: Stream corridor lands contribute to exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife species important in the area or nationally, or they provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions should be such that the biological needs of the species are met.

- **Cultural:** The stream corridor contains prehistoric sites that are rare, have unusual characteristics, or possess exceptional human-interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, be rare, or represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described. Sites may have been used by two or more cultural groups or may have been used for rare or sacred purposes.
- **Historical:** The stream corridor contains sites or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the area. Sites or features listed or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may be of particular significance.
- **Other Similar Values:** Specific evaluation guidelines have not been developed for the “other similar values” category. Additional values including but not limited to hydrologic, ecologic diversity, paleontologic, botanic, and scientific

study opportunities should be considered in a manner consistent with and similar to the forgoing resource evaluations.

I.2.2 Tentative Classification

A second step of the inventory process is to assign a tentative classification to eligible river segments (Appendices C and D). The WSRA specifies three classification categories: wild, scenic, and recreational. Classification is based on the level or degree of development of the river and adjacent lands (Appendix C). Each category is specifically defined in the Act as follows:

- **Wild River Areas:** “Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America”.
- **Scenic River Areas:** “Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.”
- **Recreational River Areas:** “Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.”

I.3 ELIGIBILITY REVIEW RESULTS

I.3.1 Kootenai River

Eligible Segment: Montana state line downstream to and including Hideaway Islands

Total Length – 22.5 kilometers (14 miles)

BLM Administered Frontage – 9.5 kilometers (5.73 miles)

Tentative Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s): Fisheries, Wildlife, Botanic

This stream segment starts at the border of Idaho and Montana and extends downstream to the lower end of Hideaway Islands. Hideaway Islands are designated a Research Natural Area. The shoreline ownership is intermingled BLM, National Forest, state and private lands. It flows through a defined canyon without road or trail access. A Burlington Northern rail line follows the south shoreline for its entire length so this segment best meets the recreational river classification category. Below this eligible segment the river continues for more than 80 kilometers (50 miles) before entering Canada. This downstream segment may also be eligible but contains no BLM lands to consider. An upstream segment in Montana may also be eligible but is outside the planning area and contains no BLM land to consider. The Forest Service, through their forest plan revision, will determine eligibility of the Montana segment of the River.

The Kootenai River provides spawning and rearing habitat for the endangered white sturgeon, threatened bull trout, and BLM sensitive burbot and westslope cutthroat trout. The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to add nutrients to this segment of the river to (1) replace nutrients trapped by Libby Dam and (2) enhance fish production in the river. The associated riparian habitat on BLM public lands are either Proper Functioning Condition or Functional At-Risk.

Bald eagles nest along the Kootenai River from the Montana state line downstream to the Hideaway Islands. The Moyie nest was first discovered in 1990 and produced 7 young eagles in 15 years (0.47 per year). The Katka nest was first discovered in 1996 and produced 4 young eagles in 9 years (0.44 per year). The Crossport nest was first discovered in 1995 and produced 11 young eagles in 10 years (1.1 per year).

Hideaway Islands were designated as an RNA/ACEC for unique botanical values. The islands contain a good example of a black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood riparian plant community in various stages of ecological succession. Three species of cottonwood are found on the islands: black cottonwood, narrowleaf cottonwood, and eastern cottonwood. Eastern cottonwood is found primarily east of the Mississippi River, with a disjunct distribution in the western U.S. This species is uncommon in Idaho. The Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC) ranks the black cottonwood/red-osier dogwood community type as “S1” in Idaho. An S1 rank is assigned to plant species or communities that are critically imperiled statewide (typically 5 or fewer occurrences or less than 5 percent of native range currently occupied by high quality examples of type) or especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. Hideaway Islands is managed by BLM in a non-destructive and non-manipulative manner to preserve the existing plant communities in an unmodified condition for the primary purpose of research and education.

I.3.2 Little North Fork Clearwater River

Eligible Segment: Source at Fish Lake downstream to National Forest boundary

Total Length – 5.8 kilometers (3.61 miles)

BLM Administered Length – 4.1 kilometers (2.56 miles)

Tentative Classification: Wild, Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s): Fisheries

This stream segment starts at Fish Lake within the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Outside the WSA it flows east across a Forest Service section and then again onto BLM land. The stream segment considered here terminates at the section line common to sections 1 and 12, T. 43 N., R. 4 E., B.M. Beyond this point the stream continues but is located all on National Forest land. A trail starts at Forest Road #1925 and parallels the stream providing access to Fish Lake. The trail is a two track primitive road that is maintained to a trail width. This stream segment accessible by trail best meets the wild river classification category. The remaining downstream segment is crossed and followed by forest roads and best meets the recreational river classification

category. The entire stream was identified by the Forest Service as eligible in the 1987 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan.

The Little North Fork of the Clearwater River provides spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened bull trout and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. Bull trout redds have been counted on this creek since 1996, and have averaged approximately 0.48 redds per stream mile. The associated riparian habitat on BLM public lands is in Proper Functioning Condition.

I.3.3 Lost Lake Creek

Eligible Segment: Entire stream from Lost Lake to Little North Fork Clearwater R.

Total Length – 5.5 kilometers (3.43 miles)

BLM Administered Length – 1.7 kilometers (1.06 miles)

Tentative Classification: Wild, Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Value: Fisheries

An intermingled land ownership pattern exists along this stream. It begins at Lost Lake on National Forest land and then crosses BLM land within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. It then alternates back and forth from National Forest to private land lands twice before terminating on BLM land where it intersects the Little North Fork Clearwater River. A foot trail starts at Forest Road #1925 and follows the stream accessing Lost Lake. It starts as a two track primitive road and then narrows to a single-track trail after entering the WSA. This stream segment accessible by trail best meets the wild river classification category. The remainder downstream from Forest Road #1925 best meets the scenic river classification category.

Lost Lake Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened bull trout and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. One bull trout redd was counted in 2000 and again in 2004. The associated riparian habitat on BLM public lands is in Proper Functioning Condition.

I.3.4 Little Lost Lake Creek

Eligible Segment: Entire stream from Little Lost Lake to Little North Fork Clearwater R.

Total Length – 5.0 kilometers (3.09 miles)

BLM Administered Length – 3.4 kilometers (2.13 miles)

Tentative Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s): Fisheries

All BLM lands on this stream are within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. The lower portion of the stream crosses National Forest land before terminating at its confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. A primitive road on National forest land is

shown on the USGS 7.5-minute Widow Mountain quadrangle but does not exist. A foot trail provides access to Little Lost Lake. The trail follows a ridge parallel to the stream and is about 0.4 kilometers (0.25 mile) off the stream for most of its length. The trail starts as a two track primitive road and then narrows to a single-track trail after entering the WSA.

Little Lost Lake Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened bull trout and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. Bull trout redds have been counted on this creek since 1996, and has averaged approximately 0.60 redds per stream mile. The associated riparian habitat on BLM public lands is in Proper Functioning Condition.

Members of the experimental, nonessential population of gray wolf inhabit the greater area that is partially drained by Lost Lake Creek. This population is treated as a proposed species for federal listing under the ESA. This area also provides habitat for the threatened Canada lynx.

I.3.5 Lund Creek

Eligible Segment: Entire stream from its source to Little North Fork Clearwater River

Total Length – 6.2 kilometers (3.88 miles)

BLM Administered Length: 5.0 kilometers (3.09 miles)

Tentative Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s): Fisheries, Botanic

All BLM lands on this stream are within the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Approximately the upper half of the stream is within the Lund Creek Research Natural Area. The entire drainage is largely pristine. The lower portion of the stream crosses National Forest lands before terminating at its confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. An un-maintained primitive road used as a trail is located on National Forest land and travels a short distance up the drainage. The USGS 7.5-minute Widow Mountain quadrangle shows this primitive road as a trail and shows it extending 1.6 kilometers (one mile) upstream onto BLM lands. This trail is overgrown, not maintained and for all practical purposes does not exist.

Lund Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for the threatened bull trout and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. Bull trout redds have been counted on this creek since 1996, and has averaged approximately 1.22 redds per stream mile. This is due to the fact that Lund Creek has the best water temperatures on BLM public lands within the Little North Fork drainage for bull trout. The aquatic habitat is in very good ecological condition, and the associated riparian habitat on BLM public lands is in Proper Functioning Condition.

The Lund Creek RNA/ACEC was designated to protect unique natural features and ecological diversity. The area contains stands of mature mountain hemlock and

subalpine plant communities dominated by subalpine fir, whitebark pine, and mountain hemlock. A number of aquatic features such as Pinchot Marsh, Little Lost Lake, and a bog, marsh, streams and waterfalls are present. Lund Creek itself and its associated riparian plant communities are rated as being in very good ecological condition. Bogs and marshes in the Grandmother Mountain area are considered subalpine peatlands, characterized by a mixture of plant species common to the mountain systems of western North America, as well as plant species more typical of boreal habitats occurring hundreds of miles north of the planning area. Although peatlands comprise a very small percentage of vegetation across the landscape they are among the most floristically diverse vegetation types. Scientists and educators are encouraged to use the area for study purposes. However, all uses must be non-destructive. No vegetative manipulation (including timber harvest) or vehicle use is permitted.

2. SUITABILITY STUDY

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SECTION 2

SUITABILITY STUDY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the study phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or unsuitable for inclusion in the National System, per the criteria of the WSR Act. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a suitability determination for designation. The BLM does not recommend any stream segments for designation into the National System, and no stream segment studied is or will be automatically designated as part of the National System. Only Congress can designate a wild and scenic river. In some instances, the Secretary of the Interior may designate a wild and scenic river when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any suitable segments are presented to them. Water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed. Rivers found unsuitable will be dropped from further consideration and will be managed according to the objectives outlined in the Coeur d'Alene (CdA) Resource Management Plan (RMP). The CdA FO is currently preparing a combined RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

During the scoping period for the RMP, two comment letters were received identifying wild and scenic rivers as an issue. Comments provided within the scoping letters pertained to BLM's need to conduct a wild and scenic river eligibility and suitability study during the RMP process. No specific river segments were identified. One of the letter authors stated that they felt that additions to the wild and scenic rivers system were warranted and appropriate but did not specifically name any segments.

Impacts that would occur from designating or not designating the eligible and suitable river segments will be analyzed in the EIS associated with the RMP. Public review and comment on suitability determinations included in the Draft RMP are considered before the BLM makes final suitability determinations.

The following eight factors, identified in BLM Manual Section 8351 (BLM 1992), are applied to each eligible river segment when completing the suitability study:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System;
2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses;
3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated;
4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river;
5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and administering the area, if designated;
6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation;
7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation; and
8. Other.

2.2 INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF SUITABLE SEGMENTS

BLM guidance requires that interim management be developed and followed to protect the free-flowing nature, outstandingly remarkable values, and recommended classification of suitable segments until congressional action regarding designation is taken. Following BLM review of suitability determinations, interim management measures will be developed for each suitable segment.

2.3 SUITABILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR THE COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE

This section contains a discussion of eight suitability factors in relationship to each of the five segments determined to be eligible in Section 1 (see Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). These factors were described above in Section 2.1.

Segment 1: Kootenai River

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are fisheries, wildlife, and botanical, as described in Section 1.3.1. Within the BLM-managed portions of this segment, there is high quality spawning and/or rearing habitat for Kootenai sturgeon, bull trout, burbot, and westslope cutthroat trout. Bald eagles nest and forage along the Kootenai River

from the Montana state line downstream to Bonner's Ferry. Botanic Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) are related to the unique botanical values located within the Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC.

A Burlington Northern rail line follows the south shoreline for the entire length of this segment.

River flow through the BLM-managed sections is regulated by Libby Dam operations in Montana. Libby Dam is operated by the Bonneville Power Administration. Current operations provide sufficient water for fisheries and wildlife-related ORVs. However, some deterioration to sturgeon spawning habitat has occurred, requiring spawning mats to be placed in the river in certain areas to provide adequate spawning substrate. In addition, the Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to add nutrients to this segment of the river to replace nutrients trapped by the dam and to enhance fish production.

Water quality concerns have been identified by the EPA for the lower Kootenai River. In 2002 an assessment of this segment of the Kootenai River was found to exceed temperature criteria, and submitted to EPA as category 3 waters for Idaho's proposed 2002 integrated report. Category 3 in an integrated report is the same as the old 303(d) listed water, waters for which a TMDL needs to be developed. EPA hasn't taken any action at this time. The EPA is expected to include the 2002 findings when it evaluates the 2004 integrated report. None of the mainstem Kootenai River segments have gone through the whole process (public, regulatory) to be officially "listed" by the EPA (pers. Com. Steed 2005). This segment is listed as non-supporting for cold water aquatic species due to elevated water temperatures. It is believed that a lack of adequate riparian vegetation and associated shade is a major contributor to the elevated water temperatures. The riparian habitat on portions of this segment that occur on public lands managed by BLM has been identified as either in Proper Functioning Condition or Functional At-Risk.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

There is a combination of federal, state, and private land along this segment. Federal land is managed either by BLM or USFS. The BLM manages land adjacent to 9.2 kilometers (5.73 miles) of the 22.5 kilometer (14 mile) segment being studied; this represents 41 percent of the segment length. However, the BLM does not necessarily manage lands on both banks of the river within the 9.2 kilometers (5.73 miles) (See Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). An evaluation of land status and ownership in the study corridor, defined as within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) on either side of the river, was conducted. Within the study corridor, not including islands, BLM manages 494 acres (13.1%), USFS manages 1,147 acres (30.3%) and the State of Idaho manages 150 acres (4%). The remaining 1,987 acres (52.6%) of land are privately held.

Federal lands within this segment are encumbered by two withdrawals: 1) a 1910 Executive Order withdrawing the parcels as a powersite reserve, and 2) a 1944 Secretarial Order withdrawal for a powersite classification.

In addition, there are sand and gravel operations adjacent to public land along the river.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

The Two Tail timber harvest lease is located on BLM-managed lands within the river corridor in this segment. This timber harvest operates in accordance with the stipulations described in INFISH, resulting in a buffer zone designed to protect river-related values. INFISH stipulations include incorporating no harvest/activity buffers into any future timber sales within the riparian areas. If the segment were designated in the NWSRS, the buffer zone would include all lands within the designated corridor, currently defined as within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) of the river. This would not be a significant change from current management.

Grazing occurs on adjacent private lands and occasionally results in unauthorized grazing on BLM lands. Designation could result in stricter enforcement of grazing restrictions on BLM lands.

WSR designation would complement the existing protection given to the rare riparian plant communities growing in the Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC. This RNA/ACEC is managed in a nondestructive and non-manipulative manner.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

At this time, no specific federal, state, tribal, local, or public entity has expressed interest in this segment of the Kootenai River regarding wild and scenic designation. BLM anticipates comments on wild and scenic river designation from interested parties to be received during the Draft RMP comment period.

The State of Idaho has jurisdiction of the streambed and consequently has a vested interest in designating or not designating this segment.

Licensed fishing guides operate in this segment of the Kootenai River. Fishing guides are regulated by Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board.

The Kootenai Tribe, Idaho Fish and Game, the county, local fishing clubs, outfitters, private landowners, and authorized users also have an interest.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

Scenic and or conservation easements on private lands would be required to effectively manage for the protection of fish and wildlife Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). No specific parcels have been identified as being required. Easements and land would only be acquired on a willing seller basis. The estimated cost of easements in this area is \$10,000 an acre.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

Managing BLM-administered lands for the protection of ORVs would be relatively simple. BLM would continue to implement INFISH standards and guidelines as a means of protecting riparian conservation areas. Additionally, because many of the ORVs are linked to federally listed species, the BLM would continue to ensure compliance with the ESA for the protection of these species and their habitats. ESA compliance and management resulting from WSR designation would be compatible.

Managing for the protection of ORVs would need to be coordinated with the USFS, which manages 30.3 percent of the riparian corridor within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) of the river. Land use on USFS lands are also constrained by the ESA to protect listed species.

The Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC is near the downstream end of the WSR-eligible river segment. An ACEC nomination is being considered that would involve all of the purple lands highlighted for the WSR review, except for the small triangle of land in the Two Tail vicinity (western side of map).

Without acquiring easements, potential uses on private lands adjacent to public lands could adversely affect ORVs within public land agency jurisdiction. Increased sediment from upstream and regulated water flows could affect the amount and quality of fisheries habitats within the portions of river flowing through public land.

There are no local or state zoning or land use regulations that would prevent development along the river. Consequently, potential development on private parcels could be incompatible with WSR designation.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Kootenai Tribe may have historical rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering. The Kootenai River may also hold spiritual significance to the tribe. The tribe's right to alter the stream through installation of dams or by channelizing is unknown.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 2: Little North Fork of Clearwater River

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries values. These values are dependent upon the high quality spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

The segment from USFS road #1925 upstream to Fish Lake is accessible by trail. The trail is composed of an old two track road that is currently maintained to a trail width.

The segment from USFS road #1925 to the downstream end of the segment is accessible by a USFS road that crosses and parallels the segment.

The segment has no water quality issues.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

The BLM manages lands along 4.1 kilometers (2.56 miles or 71%) of this 5.8 kilometer (3.61 mile) segment. The remaining 1.7 kilometer (1.05 mile) long section (29%) is managed by the USFS (See Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). Within the study corridor (defined as 0.4 kilometer [0.25 mile] on each side of the river) BLM manages 67 percent (858 acres) of the land, USFS manages 32 percent (410 acres) and private landowners control less than 1% (9 acres). The private land holdings are not adjacent to the river and would likely be excluded from the designated corridor. The entire Little North Fork Clearwater, including this portion, was identified by the USFS as eligible for WSR consideration (USFS 1987 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan). The USFS has not completed a suitability study for this segment.

A query of BLM's LR2000 database revealed no active mining claims on the identified BLM lands or adjacent USFS lands. A review of the Mines and Prospects of the Wallace Quadrangle, Idaho indicated no historical activity on the identified

BLM lands. There have been gold, silver, copper, lead, mica, feldspar, and sand and gravel prospects on surrounding lands, but none are within 1.6 kilometer (one mile) of the BLM lands. This information agrees with the mineral potential classification assigned to this region in the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report, Coeur d'Alene Field Office Planning Area (BLM 2005). Current information suggests it is a hardrock area with low potential for all minerals.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Much of this segment is within the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study area and is managed according to interim wilderness management guidelines. Management measures that would result from WSR designation would likely be similar to the interim management being implemented.

Designation of this segment would result in implementing riparian no harvest/activity buffers for future timber sales to protect the corridor. However, this would not be a significant change from current ESA requirements for the protection of bull trout in the segment. Timber harvests have occurred on lands adjacent to this segment. Designation of this segment may increase the buffer zone resulting in additional protection from potential sedimentation associated with timber harvests.

Typical recreation uses in this section include fishing, primitive camping, big game hunting, and trail activities. The trail that parallels the segment is currently open to ATVs and motorcycles and requires occasional maintenance. Forest roads are open to all classes of vehicles. If trail use results in adverse impacts to fish habitat, closure to motorized use may be required.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

At this time, no specific federal, state, tribal, local, or public entity, with the exception of the USFS, has expressed interest in this segment of the Little North Fork Clearwater River regarding wild and scenic designation. BLM anticipates comments on wild and scenic river designation from interested parties to be received during the Draft RMP comment period.

The USFS identified the entire river as eligible in the 1987 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan.

The Coeur d'Alene tribe would potentially have an interest in whether this segment becomes designated.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Shoshone County, local fishing clubs and outfitters, nearby private landowners, and authorized users potentially have an interest in whether this segment becomes designated.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

All lands being considered for designation are federally managed; there would be no need to acquire additional properties. However, coordination with USFS would be necessary to ensure protection of the river values.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

A portion of the segment is included in the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Resource values, including fisheries values, are protected in this area under interim management measures. Designation as a wilderness area or removal of WSA status is at the discretion of Congress. Consequently, resource protection afforded by interim management is only temporary.

The ESA provides additional protection of fish and riparian habitats.

Riparian Conservation Areas will be defined based on INFISH standards and guides. Additionally, the area is being considered for ACEC designation, which could result in protective management measures.

Effective protection of fisheries ORVs would require the cooperation of the USFS on adjacent USFS-managed lands.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe may have historical rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering. The Little North Fork of the Clearwater River may also hold spiritual significance to the tribe. The tribe's right to alter the stream by installing dams or by channelizing is unknown.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 3: Lost Lake Creek

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries values. The values are dependent on the high quality spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

A foot trail starts at Forest Road #1925 and follows the stream to Lost Lake. The trail starts as a two-track primitive road and narrows to a single-track trail after entering the Grandmother Mountain WSA.

The segment has no water quality issues.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership use in the area and associated or incompatible uses:

Land status along this segment is intermingled between BLM, USFS, and private landowners. The segment length is 5.5 kilometer (3.43 miles), with BLM managing lands along 1.7 kilometer (1.06 miles or 31%) (See Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). An evaluation of land status and ownership within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) on either side of the river was conducted; this is referred to as the 0.8 kilometer (0.25 mile) study corridor. Within the study corridor BLM manages 443 acres (35%), USFS manages 599 acres (47%), and 225 acres (18%) are privately held.

A query of BLM's LR2000 database (accessed January 2005) revealed no active mining claims on the identified BLM lands or adjacent USFS lands. A review of the Mines and Prospects of the Wallace Quadrangle, Idaho indicated no historical activity on the identified BLM lands. There have been gold, silver, copper, lead, mica, feldspar, and sand and gravel prospects on surrounding lands, but none are within 1.6 kilometer (one mile) of the BLM lands. This information agrees with the mineral potential classification assigned to this region in the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report, Coeur d'Alene Field Office Planning Area (BLM 2005). Current information suggests it is a hardrock area with low potential for all minerals.

Public land status in this area is unencumbered, there are no existing leases, ROWs, utility corridors or withdrawals associated with these lands.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Timber harvest has occurred on BLM lands adjacent to this river and could potentially occur again. If the segment were designated as a WSR, future timber harvests and construction of roads would not be permitted within the designated corridor. This would result in a specific riparian no harvest/activity buffer zone incorporated into any future timber sales in this area.

The trail that runs alongside the segment is open to ATVs and motorcycles. Trail maintenance activities occur along this segment. Management of these activities must comply with the ESA to ensure protection of bull trout habitat. Designating this segment is not likely to change trail use and maintenance activities. Designation could be considered complimentary with WSA interim management.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

At this time, no specific federal, state, tribal, local, or public entity has expressed interest in this segment of the Lost Lake Creek regarding wild and scenic designation. BLM anticipates comments on wild and scenic river designation from interested parties to be received during the Draft RMP comment period.

Several different entities would be interested in whether this segment is designated or not designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The primary entities would be the USFS and the private landowners along this segment. The USFS manages lands along Lost Lake and along two other sections downstream before reaching BLM lands at the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. All the private lands along this segment are controlled by a timber company and are subject to logging. Management measures resulting from designation would be limited to federal lands and would not affect the private parcels. However, BLM would pursue acquisitions and/or conservation easements on a willing seller basis along the river on private parcels.

Other entities potentially interested include the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho Fish and Game, Shoshone County, local fishing clubs, outfitters, and other authorized users.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

Fee acquisition of the private parcels along this segment would be desirable. BLM would pursue acquisition on a willing seller basis only. Land costs are estimated at \$3,000 per acre.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River or other means to protect the identified values, other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

Protection of fisheries ORVs on BLM lands would likely be accomplished through BLM's implementation of the INFISH standards and guidelines for the protection of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). RHCA's are portions of watersheds where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines.

For “fish-bearing streams,” Interim RHCA consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the greater of:

- the top of the inner gorge or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or
- to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or
- to a distance equal to the height of the two site potential trees or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream channel).

Depending on the topography, the RHCA could be smaller or larger than the wild and scenic river corridor, if designated.

Cooperative management with USFS in adjacent parcels would be required to ensure protection of fisheries ORVs.

An ACEC nomination is being considered for this area and could provide necessary protection depending on management measures developed.

BLM and USFS also manage this riparian corridor according to the requirements of the ESA for the protection of bull trout and bull trout habitat.

A portion of this area is within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Interim management affords limited protection of fisheries ORVs in the areas within the WSA. These management measures, although effective, are only interim and could be removed by congressional action.

Consequently, potential development on private parcels could be incompatible with WSR designation.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe may have historical rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering. Lost Lake Creek may also hold spiritual significance to the tribe. The right of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe to alter the stream by installing dams or by channelizing is unknown.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 4: Little Lost Lake Creek

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries values related to its spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

A foot trail parallels the segment providing access to Little Lost Lake near the headwaters of Little Lost Lake Creek. The trail is located about 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) away from the stream. The trail is a two-track primitive road on the USFS downstream portion and narrows to a single-track trail after entering BLM land in the Grandmother Mountain WSA.

This area provides habitat for the federally listed threatened Canada lynx and is occupied by members of an experimental nonessential population of gray wolf.

The segment has no water quality issues.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

All of the land adjacent to this segment is federally managed by either BLM or USFS. BLM manages lands along 3.42 kilometers (2.13 miles or 69%) of the 5.0 kilometers (3.09 mile) long segment. USFS manages lands along the remaining 1.5 kilometer (0.96 miles) (See Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). Within the study corridor, BLM manages 66 percent (793 acres), USFS manages 31 percent (371 acres) and private landowners control 3 percent (42 acres). Private landholdings are located within the study corridor are not located adjacent to the river. This private parcel is controlled by a timber company and is subject to timber harvest.

A query of BLM's LR2000 database (accessed January 2005) revealed no active mining claims on the identified BLM lands or adjacent USFS lands. A review of the Mines and Prospects of the Wallace Quadrangle, Idaho indicated no historical activity on the identified BLM lands. There have been gold, silver, copper, lead, mica, feldspar, and sand and gravel prospects on surrounding lands, but none are within 1.6 kilometer (one mile) of the BLM lands. This information agrees with the mineral potential classification assigned to this region in the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report, Coeur d'Alene Field Office Planning Area (BLM 2005). Current information suggests it is a hardrock area with low potential for all minerals.

Public land status in this area is unencumbered, there are no existing leases, ROWs, utility corridors or withdrawals associated with these lands.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

If the segment were designated as a WSR, future timber harvests, and construction of roads would not be permitted within the designated corridor. This would result in a specific riparian no harvest/activity buffer zone incorporated into any future timber sales in this area.

The trail that runs alongside the segment is currently open to ATVs and motorcycles. Trail maintenance activities occur along this segment. Management of these activities must comply with the ESA to ensure protection of bull trout habitat. Designating this segment is not likely to change trail use and maintenance activities. Designation would be considered complimentary with WSA interim management.

Typical recreation uses in this area include fishing, primitive camping, and big game hunting. Designation would not likely affect these uses.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

At this time, no specific federal, state, tribal, local, or public entity has expressed interest in this segment of the Little Lost Lake Creek regarding wild and scenic designation. BLM anticipates comments on wild and scenic river designation from interested parties to be received during the Draft RMP comment period.

Several different entities would be interested in whether this segment is designated or not designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The primary entity would be the USFS. The USFS manages lands along the lower section between BLM lands and the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Although there are no private landholdings immediately adjacent to the river, there are private lands within the watershed controlled by a timber company and subject to logging. Management measures resulting from designation would be limited to federal lands and not affect the private parcels.

Other entities potentially interested include the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho Fish and Game, Shoshone County, local fishing clubs, outfitters, and other authorized users.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

All lands along the river segment are federally managed, so no land acquisition would be required or pursued. Coordination with USFS on designation and management would be necessary to protect ORVs.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River or other means to protect the identified values:

Protection of fisheries ORVs on BLM lands would likely be accomplished through BLM's implementation of the INFISH standards and guidelines for the protection of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). RHCAs are portions of watersheds where riparian dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines.

For “fish-bearing streams,” Interim RHCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the greater of:

- the top of the inner gorge or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or
- to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or
- to a distance equal to the height of the two site potential trees or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream channel).

Depending on the topography, the RHCA could be smaller or larger than the wild and scenic river corridor, if designated.

Cooperative management with USFS in adjacent parcels would be required to ensure protection of fisheries ORVs.

An ACEC nomination is being considered for this area and could provide necessary protection depending on management measures developed.

BLM and USFS also manage this riparian corridor according to the requirements of the ESA for the protection of bull trout and bull trout habitat.

A portion of this area is within the Grandmother Mountain WSA. Interim management affords limited protection of fisheries ORVs in the areas within the WSA. These management measures, although effective, are only interim and could be removed by congressional action.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe may have historical rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering. Little Lost Lake Creek may also hold spiritual significance to the tribe. The right of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe to alter the stream by installing dams or by channelizing is unknown.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

Segment 5: Lund Creek

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries and botanic values. Fisheries ORVs are related to spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Lund Creek provides the best cold water refugia within this upper section of the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Botanic ORVs are related to the unique plant assemblages in this area. These values are dependent upon the free flowing nature of the river segment.

The segment is only accessible by foot; there are no maintained trails along this segment.

The segment has no water quality issues.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

The segment is 6.2 kilometers (3.88 miles) long and is entirely on federally managed lands. BLM manages lands along 5.0 kilometers (3.09 miles or 80%) of the segment, and USFS manages lands along the remaining 20 percent of the segment (See Map #71 in Volume III of the Draft Coeur d'Alene RMP/EIS). The study corridor included all lands within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) of the river.

The entire BLM-managed portion of the study corridor is within the Lund Creek RNA/ACEC, which includes management measures to prevent any destructive activities. No vegetative manipulation, including timber harvest, or vehicle use is permitted.

A query of BLM's LR2000 database (accessed January 2005) revealed no active mining claims on the identified BLM lands or adjacent USFS lands. A review of the Mines and Prospects of the Wallace Quadrangle, Idaho indicated no historical activity on the identified BLM lands and one very old prospect (1911) for gold, silver, copper, and lead within 1.6 kilometer (one mile) of the headwaters. Other prospects in the area for metals, mica, feldspar, and sand and gravel were all more than 1.6 kilometer (one mile) away. This information agrees with the mineral potential classification assigned to this region in the Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report, Coeur d'Alene Field Office Planning Area (BLM 2005). Current information suggests it is a hardrock area with low potential for all minerals.

Public land status in this area is unencumbered; there are no existing leases, ROWs, utility corridors or withdrawals associated with these lands.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

If the segment were designated as a WSR, future timber harvests and construction of roads would not be permitted within the designated corridor. This would result in a specific riparian no harvest/activity buffer zone incorporated into any future timber sales in this area. Such restrictions would be consistent with current management measures for the Lund Creek RNA/ACEC. WSR designation would complement the protection given to the natural features and ecological diversity by the existing Lund Creek RNA/ACEC. No vegetation manipulation or vehicle use is permitted within this RNA/ACEC.

Classification as a wild river would include withdrawal of the area from mineral entry.

Lund Creek is used very little for recreation except for primitive hunting opportunities. Consequently, designation is not likely to affect recreational use of the area.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

At this time, no specific federal, state, tribal, local, or public entity has expressed interest in this segment of the Lund Creek regarding wild and scenic designation. BLM anticipates comments on wild and scenic river designation from interested parties to be received during the Draft RMP comment period.

Several different entities would be interested in whether this segment is designated or not designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The primary entity would be the USFS. The USFS manages lands along the lower section between BLM lands and the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River.

Other entities potentially interested include the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho Fish and Game, Shoshone County, local fishing clubs, outfitters, and other authorized users.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

All lands along the river segment are federally managed, so no land acquisition would be required. Coordination with USFS on designation and management would be necessary to protect ORVs.

6. The ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

Protection of fisheries ORVs on BLM lands would likely be accomplished through BLM's implementation of the INFISH standards and guidelines for the protection of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). RHCAs are portions of watersheds where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines.

For "fish-bearing streams," Interim RHCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the greater of:

- the top of the inner gorge or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or
- to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or

- to a distance equal to the height of the two site potential trees or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet including both sides of the stream channel).

Depending on the topography, the RHCA could be smaller or larger than the wild and scenic river corridor, if designated.

Cooperative management with USFS in adjacent parcels would be required to ensure protection of fisheries and botanic ORVs.

BLM and USFS also manage this riparian corridor according to the requirements of the ESA for the protection of bull trout and bull trout habitat.

Current RNA/ACEC designation provides protection of riparian habitat for the majority of the segment. The lower mile currently outside the RNA/ACEC has been nominated for designation as an ACEC and is being evaluated. Interim management measures for the WSA provide additional protection.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe may have historical rights for fishing, hunting, and gathering. Lund Creek may also hold spiritual significance to the tribe. The right of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to alter the stream by installing dams or by channelizing is unknown.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

2.4 SUITABILITY DETERMINATION SUMMARY

Four of the five eligible segments were determined to be suitable for inclusion in the National System. Below is a summary of each of the five segments.

2.4.1 Segment I: Kootenai River

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable values for fisheries, wildlife, and botanics. Within the BLM-managed portions of this segment, there is high quality spawning and/or rearing habitat for Kootenai sturgeon, bull trout, burbot, and westslope cutthroat trout. Bald eagles nest and forage along the Kootenai River from the Montana state line downstream to Bonner's Ferry. Botanic ORVs are related to the unique botanical values within the Hideaway Islands RNA/ACEC. The segment would meet classification criteria as Recreational because of the presence of a railroad parallel to the shoreline.

Designation of this segment would result in several management challenges because of the scattered land pattern and controlled flows. Land uses on privately owned parcels adjacent to the river could adversely affect fisheries habitats downstream in the BLM-managed portions. Activities such as timber harvest and sand/gravel extraction could

increase sedimentation and could result in increased water temperatures due to decreased riparian shade, which would affect fish habitats in BLM-managed segments. Additionally, water flow management from Libby Dam is key to protecting the fisheries and wildlife values. Managing flows is not under the jurisdiction of BLM. Due to these management challenges, this segment has been determined **not suitable** for designation as a **Recreational** river within the National System.

Although this segment contains ORVs worthy of protection, and designation would result in minimal changes to management on the BLM-managed parcels, the determination that this segment is unsuitable for designation at this time is based on the following direction from the updated BLM guidance 8351.06B and 8351.33A:

8351.06B—“In cases where a particular river segment is predominantly non-Federal in ownership and contains interspersed BLM-administered lands, BLM shall evaluate only its segment as to eligibility and defer to the State or to the private landowners’ discretion as to their determination of eligibility.

8351.33A—A.2, Status of land ownership, minerals, use in the area, including the amount of private land involved, and associated or incompatible uses. Jurisdictional consideration (administrative role and/or presence) must be taken into account to the extent that management would be affected. In situations where there is limited public lands (shoreline and adjacent lands) administered by the BLM within an identified river study area, it may be difficult to ensure those identified outstandingly remarkable values could be properly maintained and afforded adequate management protection over time. Accordingly, for those situations where the BLM is unable to protect or maintain any identified ORV, or through other mechanisms (existing or potential), river segments may be determined suitable only if the entity with land use planning responsibility supports the finding and commits to assisting the BLM in protecting the identified river values.”

The final suitability determination relies on the judgment of BLM resource experts. The initial “not suitable” determination is based primarily on the assumption that potential land use activities (i.e., timber harvest, sand/gravel extraction, and dam operations) on private and state land parcels upstream of BLM parcels could adversely affect fisheries habitat in the BLM-managed sections.

2.4.2 Segment 2: Little North Fork Clearwater River

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries values. These values are related to the high quality spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. BLM manages lands along 4.1 kilometers (2.56 miles) of this 5.8 kilometers (3.61 mile) segment, with USFS managing the remaining lands. The segment meets classification criteria for Wild in the upstream portion from the western USFS boundary to the headwaters at Fish Lake. The downstream portion from the eastern USFS boundary to shortly below the confluence with Lost Lake Creek meets the criteria for Recreational due to a dirt road that parallels this segment. Managing these sections for protection of fisheries ORVs would result in minimal changes to existing

management but would provide an additional layer of protection for this river segment. Coordination with USFS would be required to ensure consistent management. However, the USFS implementation of INFISH standards and guidelines, and ESA requirements for lands along this segment, would prevent USFS land use activities from adversely affecting fish habitats in BLM-managed segments downstream. This segment has been determined **suitable** for designation as **Wild (upstream)** and **Recreational (downstream)** within the National System.

2.4.3 Segment 3: Lost Lake Creek

This segment contains ORVs for fisheries related to the high quality spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Land status and ownership along this 5.5 kilometers (3.43 mile) segment is scattered. Beginning at Lost Lake and proceeding downstream, land status is USFS, BLM, USFS, private, USFS, private, and ending on BLM lands at the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River. This creates some management challenges. On federally managed lands (USFS and BLM), INFISH standards and guidelines and ESA requirements should protect fish habitats and the necessary riparian buffer. The upstream portion on BLM-managed lands would meet the classification criteria for a wild river. The downstream portion, which includes the confluence with the Little North Fork Clearwater River, would meet classification criteria for a scenic river. Designation of this segment would result in minimal changes to BLM management. Some monitoring and potential modification of trail uses and maintenance may be required. Land uses on private parcels (controlled by a timber company) could adversely affect fish habitats in the downstream BLM-managed portion. Increased sedimentation from runoff and decreased riparian habitat could result from timber harvest practices. Timber harvest on these parcels would follow Idaho state forest practices, but this would not eliminate the potential for adverse impacts. BLM would pursue acquisition of land and/or easements, on a willing seller basis, within the riparian corridor for these parcels. This segment has been determined **suitable** for designation as a **Wild (upstream portion)** and **Scenic (downstream portion)** river within the National System.

This suitability determination is based on the assumption that timber harvest and other activities on the private parcels would not significantly affect fish habitats. If this assumption is not correct, then BLM should consider only finding the upstream portion suitable for designation.

2.4.4 Segment 4: Little Lost Lake Creek

This segment contains fisheries ORVs related to its high quality spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. All lands immediately adjacent to the segment are federally managed, with the majority (69%) administered by BLM. This segment would meet classification criteria as a wild river. Designating this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide protections compatible with the WSA designation and the ESA. OHV use of the trail paralleling the river would be monitored for effects to fish habitat in the segment. Future timber sales would be subject to riparian exclusion zones to prevent increased sedimentation. The USFS manages the land downstream of the BLM portion. Land use activities on

USFS lands would have minimal affect on BLM-managed sections. The USFS implementation of INFISH standards and guidelines, and ESA requirements for lands along this segment, would prevent USFS land use activities from adversely affecting fish habitats. The only potential management challenges for this segment would arise from land use activities on privately owned lands within the watershed. Private parcels are not located immediately adjacent to Little Lost Lake Creek but are within 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) of the river. Consequently, activities such as timber harvest could result in increased sedimentation in the river. This adverse affect is not expected to occur do to the protections afforded the segment from WSA designation and the requirements of the ESA. This segment has been determined **suitable** for designation as a **Wild** river within the National System.

2.4.5 Segment 5: Lund Creek

This segment contains fisheries and botanic ORVs. Lund Creek provides the best cold water refugia on BLM land in the upper Little North Fork Clearwater River watershed for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Botanic values are related to the unique plant assemblages associated with the creek. BLM manages the majority of lands along the creek (80%). USFS manages land along the downstream 20 percent of the creek. Access to this segment is limited to foot traffic, with no maintained trails. This segment would meet classification criteria as Wild. Designating this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide layer of protection for the fisheries and botanic values compatible with the protection already afforded by the RNA/ACEC designation, WSA designation and requirements of the ESA. This segment has been determined to be **suitable** for designation as a **Wild** river within the National System.

A. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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TAB A

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A.1 INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of classification, a river area may be divided into segments. For example, changes in river character, such as the presence of dams and reservoirs, significant changes in types or amounts of development, significant changes in physiographic character, tributaries, or features, and/or significant changes in land status should be considered in identifying river segments for evaluation. Management strategies necessary to administer the entire river area should also be taken into account. As such, excessive segmentation should be avoided. Each segment, considered as a whole, needs to conform to either the Wild, Scenic, or Recreational classification. There are no specific requirements for segment length. Congress has designated a segment to be as short as 6.4 kilometers (four miles). A river segment is of sufficient length if a specific outstandingly remarkable value or values can be protected (a factor in the suitability determination, not eligibility determination), should the segment be designated. An entire stream could be one segment.

Each identified river segment in the RMP planning area must be evaluated to determine whether or not it is eligible for inclusion in the National System. To be eligible, a river segment must be free-flowing and must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value. Free-flowing means “existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the water.” Please note the following:

- A river below a dam or impoundment is still eligible;
- A river need not be navigable by watercraft in order to be eligible; and
- There are no specific requirements concerning the flow of an eligible river segment. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the segment would be designated. As such, intermittent and ephemeral streams are eligible.

A.2 OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

The determination of whether a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values is a professional judgment and needs to be documented. In order to be considered as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related; that is, they should have the following characteristics:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (for the purposes of this study, the preliminary boundary is 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following are general guidelines for the outstandingly remarkable values for which river segments can be eligible. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

A.2.1 Scenic

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors, such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed, may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over most of the river or river segment.

A.2.2 Recreational

Recreational opportunities are or have the potential to be popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreation. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and may attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.

A.2.3 Geological

The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that are unique or rare within the region of comparison. The features may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example, or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

A.2.4 Fish

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat or a combination of the following river-related conditions:

- *Populations.* The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- *Habitat.* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

A.2.5 Wildlife

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or on a combination of the following conditions:

- *Populations.* The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species depending on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered to be unique or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- *Habitat.* The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

A.2.6 Cultural

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare or must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where culture or a cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

A.2.7 Historic

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites or feature or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. A historic site or feature in most cases is 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places may be of particular significance.

A.2.8 Other Similar Values

While no specific evaluation guidelines have been developed for the other similar values category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should

be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance, including, but not limited to, hydrologic, ecologic/biologic diversity, paleontologic, botanic, and scientific study opportunities.

B. RIVER SEGMENTS FROM INITIAL IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

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TAB B

RIVER SEGMENTS FROM INITIAL IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS

Table B-1 lists the Planning Area river and stream segments considered during initial identification efforts for the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process.

B. River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts

Table B-1
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Review Summary

Stream Name	Free Flowing	Scenic	Rec.	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	Cultural	Historic	Other	Eligible	Remarks
Ahrs Creek	YES									NO	
Ahrs Gulch	YES									NO	
Alder Creek	YES									NO	
Alder Gulch	YES									NO	
Amy Gulch	YES									NO	
Antelope Creek	YES									NO	
Argentine Creek	YES									NO	
Baldy Creek	YES									NO	
Beaver Creek	YES									NO	
Big Creek	YES									NO	
Black Prince Creek	YES									NO	
Blackcloud Creek	YES									NO	
Blackjack Creek	YES									NO	
Blackwell Canals	NO									NO	Man-made canals
Blue Creek	YES									NO	
Blue Eagle Creek	YES									NO	
Boulder Creek	YES									NO	
Butte Gulch	YES									NO	
Calusa Creek	YES									NO	
Carbon Creek	YES									NO	
Caribou Creek	YES									NO	
Cascade Creek	YES									NO	
Clark Fork River	YES									NO	
Coeur d'Alene River	YES									NO	
Cougar Gulch	YES									NO	
Cranky Gulch	YES									NO	
Crater Creek	YES									NO	
Daly Gulch	YES									NO	
Deadman Gulch	YES									NO	
Delaney Creek	YES									NO	
Denver Creek	YES									NO	
Dexter Gulch	YES									NO	
Dobson Gulch	YES									NO	
Douglas Creek	YES									NO	
Dry Butte Gulch	YES									NO	
Dry Gulch	YES									NO	
Duplex Creek	YES									NO	

Table B-1
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Review Summary *(continued)*

Stream Name	Free Flowing	Scenic	Rec.	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	Cultural	Historic	Other	Eligible	Remarks
East Fork Nine Mile Cr.	YES									NO	
East Fork Pine Creek	YES									NO	
Elk Creek	YES									NO	
Evans Creek	YES									NO	
Experimental Draw	YES									NO	
Falls Creek	YES									NO	
Farnham Creek	YES									NO	
Floodwood Creek	YES									NO	
Fortynine Meadows Cr.	YES									NO	
Freeman Creek	YES									NO	
Freezeout Creek	YES									NO	
Gentle Annie Gulch	YES									NO	
Gilbert Creek	YES									NO	
Gold Hunter Gulch	YES									NO	
Gold Run	YES									NO	
Gorge Gulch	YES									NO	
Government Gulch	YES									NO	
Grader Gulch	YES									NO	
Grouse Creek	YES									NO	
Grouse Gulch	YES									NO	
Harvey Creek	YES									NO	
Hauck Gulch	YES									NO	
Highland Creek	YES									NO	
Hord Gulch	YES									NO	
Hunter Creek	YES									NO	
Idaho Gulch	YES									NO	
Jackass Creek	YES									NO	
Katka Creek	YES									NO	
Klondike Gulch	YES									NO	
Kootenai River	YES				YES	YES			Botanic	YES	Also Forest Service lands
Lake Creek	YES									NO	
Latour Creek	YES									NO	
Little Lost Lake Creek	YES				YES					YES	Also Forest Service lands
Little North Fork Clearwater River	YES				YES					YES	Also Forest Service lands

B. River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts

Table B-1
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Review Summary *(continued)*

Stream Name	Free Flowing	Scenic	Rec.	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	Cultural	Historic	Other	Eligible	Remarks
Little Pine Creek	YES									NO	
Little Sand Creek	YES									NO	
Little Terror Gulch	YES									NO	
Lost Lake Creek	YES				YES					YES	Also Forest Service lands
Lund Creek	YES				YES				Botanic	YES	Also Forest Service lands
Lyle Creek	YES									NO	
Lynch Gulch	YES									NO	
Marble Creek	YES									NO	
McFarren Gulch	YES									NO	
McKinley Gulch	YES									NO	
McLaren Gulch	YES									NO	
McQuade Gulch	YES									NO	
Meyer Gulch	YES									NO	
Middle Fork Pine Creek	YES									NO	
Mill Creek	YES									NO	
Mineral Creek	YES									NO	
Missoula Gulch	YES									NO	
Nabob Creek	YES									NO	
Ninemile Creek	YES									NO	
North Fork Glover Cr.	YES									NO	
Ophir Gulch	YES									NO	
Parker Creek	YES									NO	
Pend Oreille River	YES									NO	
Pinchot Creek	YES									NO	
Pine Creek	YES									NO	
Placer Creek	YES									NO	
Polaris Gulch	YES									NO	
Prichard Creek	YES									NO	
Prospect Gulch	YES									NO	
Red Cloud Creek	YES									NO	
Red Oak Gulch	YES									NO	
Reeder Gulch	YES									NO	
Reeds Gulch	YES									NO	
Revenue Gulch	YES									NO	
Rochat Creek	YES									NO	
Rock Creek	YES									NO	

Table B-1
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Review Summary *(continued)*

Stream Name	Free Flowing	Scenic	Rec.	Geology	Fish	Wildlife	Cultural	Historic	Other	Eligible	Remarks
Ross Gulch	YES									NO	
Ruddy Gulch	YES									NO	
Saint Joe Creek	YES									NO	
Sawmill Gulch	YES									NO	
Scott Creek	YES									NO	
Shields Gulch	YES									NO	
Slaughterhouse Gulch	YES									NO	
Sourdough Gulch	YES									NO	
South Fork Coeur d'Alene River	YES									NO	
Spokane River	NO									NO	Above Post Falls Dam Previously studied
St. Joe River	YES										
Stinson Creek	YES									NO	
Street Creek	YES									NO	
Sunnyside Creek	YES									NO	
Syringa Creek	YES									NO	
Terror Gulch	YES									NO	
Tiger Gulch	YES									NO	
Trapper Creek	YES									NO	
Trowbridge Gulch	YES									NO	
Twin Spring Creek	YES									NO	
Watson Gulch	YES									NO	
Wesp Gulch	YES									NO	
West Fork Big Creek	YES									NO	
West Fork Elk Creek	YES									NO	
West Fork McFarren Gulch	YES									NO	
West Fork Pine Creek	YES									NO	
West Fork Placer Creek	YES									NO	

C. CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS

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TAB C

CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS

Table C-1 lists the classification criteria for wild, scenic, and recreational river areas.

Table C-1
Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resources Development (impoundments, diversions, etc.)	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, riprap, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.

Table C-1
Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas *(continued)*

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, including fords, is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the US be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

Source: Federal Register. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.

D. INTERIM PROTECTION FOR CANDIDATE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

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TAB D

INTERIM PROTECTION FOR CANDIDATE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Table D-1 lists the interim protections for candidate wild and scenic rivers, discussing issues, and if each issue is eligible or suitable for protections.

Table D-1
Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1) ¹		
Issue/Action	Eligible ²	Suitable
Study Boundary	Minimum of 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) from ordinary high-water mark.	Minimum of 0.4 kilometer (0.25 mile) from ordinary high-water mark.
Preliminary Classification	Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values.	Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values.
	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, Scenic, Recreational, defined by statute.	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, Scenic, Recreational, defined by statute.
	Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines.	Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines.
Study Report Review Procedures	Manage at preliminary classification.	Manage at preliminary classification.
		Notice of study report/draft EA ³ published in Federal Register.
		Comments/response from federal, state, and local agencies and the public included in the study report/final EA ⁴ transmitted to the President and Congress.

Table D-1
Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers *(continued)*

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1) ¹		
Issue/Action	Eligible ²	Suitable
Private Land *Administration *Acquisition	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners. No regulatory authority. No ability to acquire interest in land under the act's authority prior to designation.	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners. No regulatory authority. No ability to acquire interest in land under the act's authority prior to designation. Typically an evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and land use controls is a component of suitability determination ⁵ .
Water Resources Project	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the act.	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the act.
Land Disposition	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership.	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership.
Mining and Mineral Leasing	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities.	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities.
Actions of Other Agencies	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership.	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership.
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	No regulatory authority conferred by the act; agency protects through other authorities. Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources ⁶ .	No regulatory authority conferred by the act; agency protects through other authorities. Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources ⁶ .

¹ Agency-identified study rivers as directed by Section 5(d)(1) of the act.

² A number of sources are available for identifying rivers under Section 5(d)(1). Under a Presidential Directive issued in 1979, each federal agency, as part of its normal planning and environmental review processes, is required to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers in the National Rivers Inventory.

³ Draft environmental assessment

⁴ Final environmental assessment

⁵ For an agency-identified study river that includes private lands, there is often the need to evaluate existing state and local land use controls and, if necessary, to assess the willingness of state and local governments to protect river values.

⁶ Section 11(b)1 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture or the head of any other federal agency to provide for "limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources." This authority "applies within or outside a federally administered area and applies to rivers which are components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to other rivers." The recipients of federal assistance include states or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals. Some examples of assistance under this section include, but are not limited to, riparian restoration, riparian fencing to protect water quality and riparian vegetation, or vegetative screening to enhance scenery/recreation experience.